



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests
Forest Supervisor's Office
903 3rd Street
Kamiah, ID 83536

Grangeville Office 208-983-1950
Orofino Office 208-476-4541

File Code: 1950

Date: May 16, 2014

Dear Planning Participant:

We will be considering the enclosed project proposals and conducting environmental analyses on them in the near future.

You are being notified of these proposals because you have expressed interest in projects on the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests.

Preliminary assessments have been made that the following projects fall within a category of actions listed in 36 CFR 220.6, thereby excluding them from documentation in an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Please feel free to offer your comments regarding them.

Thank you for your continued participation in projects involving the Nez Perce – Clearwater National Forests.

Sincerely,

for RICK BRAZELL
Forest Supervisor
Nez Perce – Clearwater National Forests

Enclosures: Maps of Project Sites



Information Regarding Public Comments

Please review the following proposals and submit your site-specific comments as described below so they can be included in our analyses for the projects.

Your comments will be most useful if submitted by June 16, 2014.

If you have any questions or would like additional information regarding these projects, please contact Linda S. Helm, Small NEPA Coordinator at (208) 935-4285. Forest Service business hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (PST), Monday through Friday, excluding Federal holidays. Written comments should either be mailed or hand-delivered to her at the Nez Perce – Clearwater National Forests Supervisor's Office, 903 3rd Street, Kamiah, Idaho 83536 or submitted *via* facsimile transmittal to her at (208) 935-4275. Electronic mail comments should be submitted in rich text format (.rtf), Word (.doc - **preferred**) or portable data format (.pdf) to comments-northern-nezperce@fs.fed.us.

If you choose to comment on the proposals, please include the following: (1) your name, address, and (if possible) your telephone number, and organization represented (if any); (2) title of project; and, (3) specific facts and relevant rationale you feel should be considered. **Please do not submit "boiler-plate" objections that are not specific to the particular projects.**

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names, telephone numbers, addresses, and electronic mail addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any person may request this Agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentiality should be aware that, under the FOIA, confidentiality may be granted in limited circumstances. The Forest Service will inform the requester of the Agency's decision regarding the request for confidentiality and the options available (see 7 CFR 1.27 for further information).

Project Proposals

Forestwide

Gilbert Hill Communication Site Special Use Permit Renewal

Proposed Category: 36 CFR 220.6(e)(15) *Issuance of a new special use authorization for a new term to replace an existing or expired special use authorization when the only changes are administrative, there are no changes to*

the authorized facilities or increases in the scope or intensity of authorized activities, and the applicant or holder is in full compliance with the terms and conditions of the special use authorization.

Legal Coordinates of Project Site: T36N, R1E, Section 13 NE ¼ NW ¼ (Boise Meridian).

Background: The Forest Service owns facilities at the Gilbert Hill communication site located near Orofino, Idaho.

Narrative Summary: The State of Idaho Military Division is authorized to occupy Building A and space on the tower for the following equipment:

- A) Motorola PTP 600 4.9GHz transceiver unit, with 2' flat panel 28db gain antenna (approximately 65'). Cat 5 cable run down into the Forest Service building to a PIDU (power supply), mounted to wall; and,
- B) Ubiquity Nano Station M900 900MHz transceiver unit, with a 48" 15db Laird Yagi antenna (approximately 60'). Cat 5E cable run down into the Forest Service building with power injector mounted to wall.

The State of Idaho Military Division has a signed operating plan as part of the Special Use permit.

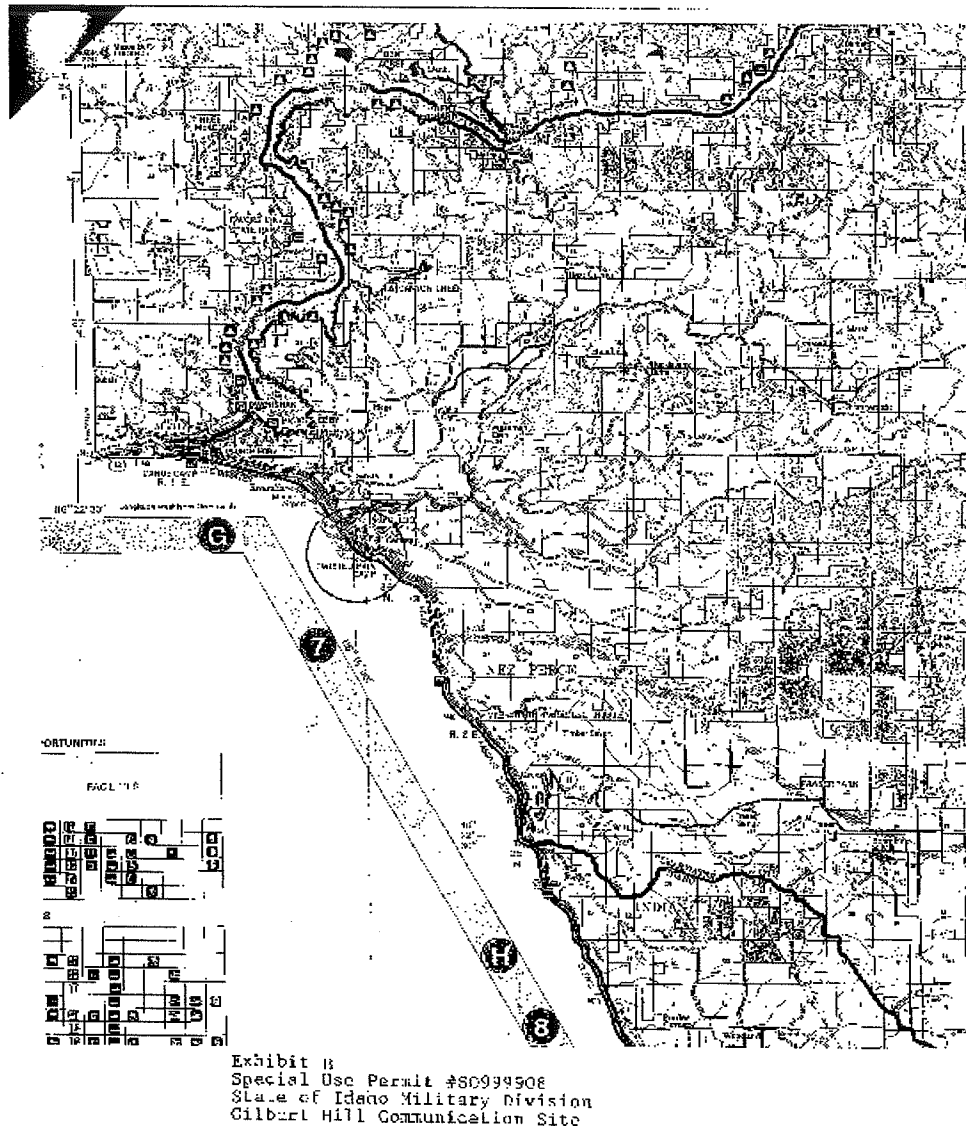
Other permit holders at this site include the Clearwater Fire Chiefs' Association for space in Building A and on the tower, and Central Idaho Broadcasting/KLER for use of Building B and the tower.

Project Implementation: The proposed action is to renew the State of Idaho Military Division permit for 30 years; this is the maximum term limit for this type of special use permit.

There are no changes to site access and Clearwater Fire Chiefs' Association and Central Idaho Broadcasting/KLER will be contacted.

Project Information: For additional information regarding this project, please contact the project proponent, Special Use Administrator Molly Puchlerz at 208.942.0303.

Map of Gilbert Hill Communication Site



Lochsa – Powell Ranger Districts

Lochsa Lodge Special Use Permit Renewal

Proposed Category: 36 CFR 220.6(e)(15) Issuance of a new special use authorization for a new term to replace an existing or expired special use authorization when the only changes are administrative, there are no changes to the authorized facilities or increases in the scope of intensity of authorized activities, and the applicant or holder is in full compliance with the terms and conditions of the special use authorization.

Legal Coordinates of Project Site: T37N, R14E, Section 32 NE ¼ NE ¼ (Boise Meridian).

Background: The Lochsa Lodge is located in the remote community of Powell, Idaho, 60 miles from Missoula, Montana. The project area covers 19.3 acres of National Forest Land.

Narrative Summary: The lodge has been in existence and under permit in the same location for 80 years for the purpose of operating a public Resort on National Forest Land. The original Lochsa Lodge was built in 1929. In 2001, a tragic chimney fire destroyed the old historic lodge and in May of 2002, the new main lodge opened.

The lodge operates 365 days a year. It provides fuel, meals, groceries, rental showers, lodging, and recreational services to the traveling public, as well as some minimal community based amenities to Powell residents. It also serves as a base for outfitter services, including trail rides and white water rafting trips.

The facilities include: the main lodge building, 2 storage buildings, 11 guest cabins, 8 motel rooms, a grocery store, 6 trailers for employee housing, a laundry building, a shower building, road system to service improvements, corral, barn, fences, signs, telephone service, water and sewage lines. This authorization also recognizes the Permit Holder's payment for the use of the Powell Ranger Station's sewage lagoon. In addition, the Lewis and Clark Trail Adventure rents office space within the lodge facilities.

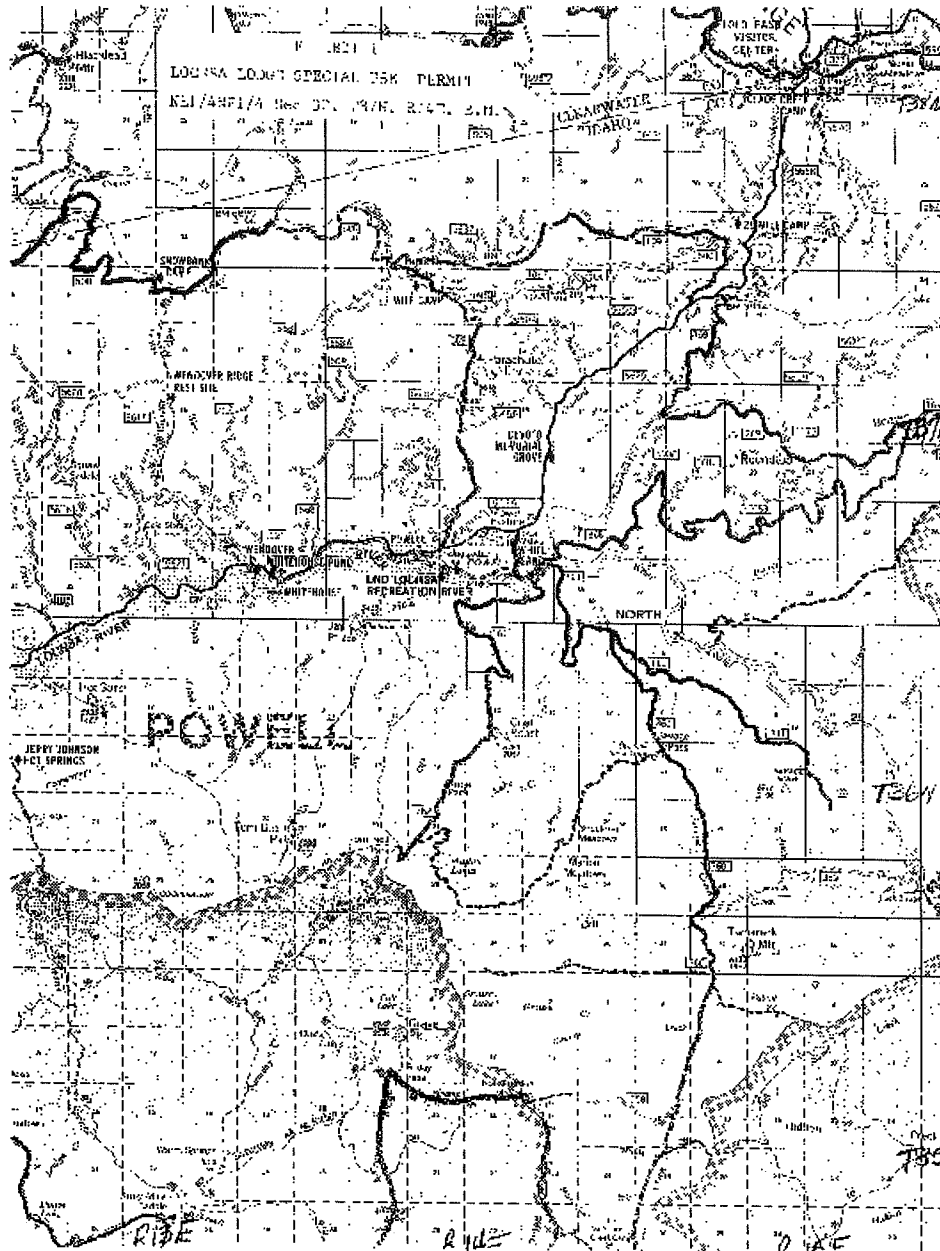
Project Implementation: The proposed action is to renew the Lochsa Lodge's permit for 30 years; this is the maximum term for this type of special use permit. This type of Special Use permit requires a signed operating plan for additional expectations, conditions, and terms.

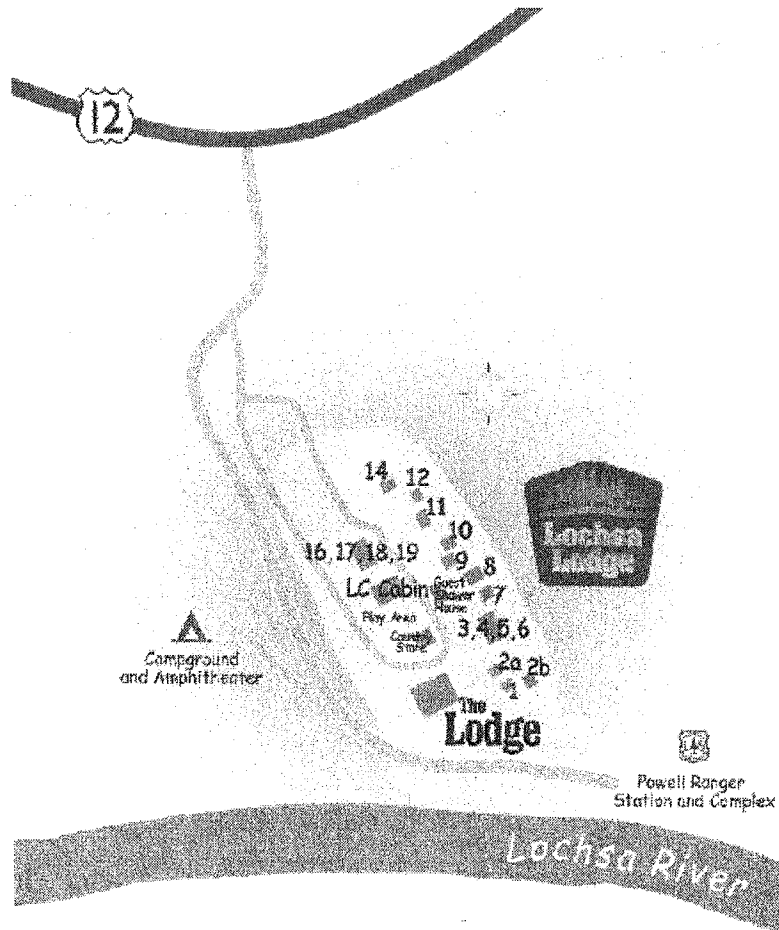
Lochsa Lodge understands and agrees that all resort improvements (facilities, buildings, fences, bridges, roads, trails, etc.) must be analyzed and/or approved in advance and in writing by the District Ranger or Forest Officer in charge of Permit Administration.

Lodge improvements will be made pursuant to the approved Master Plan. In the event of deviation and/or new construction, plans will be submitted to the appropriate Forest Service Officer for analysis and approval as dictated in the permit.

Project Information: For additional information regarding this project, please contact the project proponent, Special Use Administrator Molly Puchlerz at 208.942.0303.

Maps of Lochsa Lodge Site





<http://www.lochsalodge.com/images/local-area-large.jpg>

4/23/2014

Palouse Ranger District

Palouse Divide Ski Trails Maintenance

Proposed Category: 36 CFR 220.6(d)(4) *Repair and maintenance of roads, trails, and landline boundaries.*

Legal Coordinates of Project Site: T43N, R3W, Sections 24, 25; T43N, R2W, Sections 17, 19, 20; additionally, located on the Idaho Panhandle National Forest: T43N, R3W, Section 24; T43N, R2W, Sections 18, 19, and 20 (Boise Meridian).

Background: The Palouse Divide area of the Palouse Ranger District has been used extensively for groomed cross-country skiing for the past 10-plus years.

Narrative Summary: The groomed trail system is located on the east and west sides of Palouse Divide on National Forest System (NFS) Road 377, as well as numerous roads and trails that branch off this main route. The area is closed to motorized traffic from December 15th through April 1st to facilitate these non-motorized recreation opportunities. Along NFS Road 377, there are large trees that (due to their extensive canopies) prohibit snow from reaching the road surface, making it extremely difficult for grooming activities. These canopies also create numerous icy spots along the trail, resulting in hazardous skiing conditions for visitors.

Project Design Specifications/Equipment: To address the items and information listed above, the project would consist of the following:

Section 1: Removal of approximately 20-40 trees, 10-35" in diameter, along the first 1 mile of NFS Road 377 west of State Highway 6.

Section 2: Removal of approximately 20-40 trees, 10-35" in diameter, along the first 1-2 miles of NFS Road 377 east of State Highway 6.

Completion of this work would provide a much safer trail skiing experience for area visitors and safer work conditions for trail grooming personnel and volunteers.

Project Implementation: Most work is expected to be accomplished with Forest Service personnel prior to December 15, 2014. Additionally, a small sale/contract opportunity could be pursued to complete this project work.

Project Information: For additional information regarding this project, please contact the project proponent, North Zone Recreation Staff Officer Adam McClory at 208.875.1734.

Map of Palouse Divide Ski Trails Maintenance Sites

